

My Worst Blunder

FAMOUS "BONEHEAD" PLAYS ON MAJOR LEAGUE DIAMONDS

Explained by Leading Baseball Players to

HUGH S. FULLERTON

BY DEL GAINER.

First Baseman Detroit Tigers, Who Is Considered One of the Best of the Younger Generation of American Leaguers.

There is one play that made it look as if the space reserved in my brain for gray matter was about as big as a pea, and for a few days I was afraid to have a back tooth filled for fear they'd fill the whole cavity and leave me solid all the way through. Yet it wasn't such a bad play as it looked. The fact is I thought out that play in fine style, and the wind wouldn't let me show that I was pulling off a smart trick.

I made the break soon after I came up from the bushes to join the Detroit team, and of course, being a new man, it hurt worse than it would have done now, when I've become a bit case-hardened to the criticisms. I'd rather have the fellows break loose and tell me what they think than to shake their heads sadly and gaze at me as if they felt a little sorry. You know how it is.

We were playing Cleveland, I believe, and that season there was more than the usual rivalry between the teams, as Cleveland was on a spurt and we weren't doing any too well. It was a fighting, hustling game all the way, and we were tied up in the first of the ninth. I believe it was Birmingham who cracked out a long hit for the start and was sacrificed along, which landed him on third with only one out, and the infield was pulled close to cut him off from the plate. The next batter hit a foul fly out over my head toward right field, one of those short flies that don't go very high. The right fielder hadn't a chance to get it, and, although it would have been an easy out if I had been playing back of the base, it was a tough one to go back after. I took a look and started out for it, feeling sure it would fall foul by many feet. As I tore along I



Del Gainer.

thought I could reach the ball and went harder and harder. Then I did my thinking. I realized that if I caught the ball I would be extended at top speed and would have to stop, turn entirely around and make the throw to the plate to prevent Birmingham from scoring on the catch. It seemed five to one that I couldn't recover and get him, so I decided not to try to catch the ball, but to let it fall foul. I slackened speed, and just then the ball hit the wind, shot out and hit three or four inches fair, with me trotting along and not trying for it, ten feet away. Birmingham scored, they scored again before we got them out, and although we counted one in our half we were beaten.

It wasn't any use to explain or make excuses. I had to grin and take it, but I still think I had the play figured out right, the only trouble being that it went all wrong.

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Preserving Tennis Rackets.

Frequently the gut strings in tennis rackets will dry and break during storage in winter. Rub each string with vaseline in the fall before putting the racket away and the strings will be as pliable and strong as when new.

Daily Thought.

Endeavor to be patient in bearing with the defects and infirmities of others, of what sort soever they may be; for that thyself also hast many failings which must be borne with by others.—Thomas a Kempis.

Work That Tells a Story.

Better the rudest work that tells a story or records a fact, than the richest without meaning. There should not be a single ornament put upon great civic buildings, without some intellectual intentions.—Ruskin.

Value of Experience.

It is expedient to have an acquaintance with those who have looked into the world, who know men, understand business and can give you good intelligence and good advice when they are wanted.—Bishop Horne.

JOHNSON IS GREAT PITCHER

Has Added to His Terrific Speed Excellent Control, Slow Ball and Quick Breaking Curve.

"Walter Johnson is today a perfect pitcher," said one of the veteran umpires of the American league recently in discussing the "Washington marvel." "If you could have a hurler made to order you couldn't design one who would be a bit more effective than the big Swede, whose name is a terror to the best batsmen in the country."

"Johnson isn't using his terrific speed much nowadays. In fact, he seldom cuts one loose with all his might unless he happens to be in a tight place and opposed to a hitter who is weak on the fast ones. He throws a lot of fast balls with a break on them still, but they are not of the old armor-piercing type that made him famous."

"At one time he had to depend almost entirely on the velocity of his ball and his control to make him formidable, but now he has acquired a good curve and a nice change of pace. For some time he has been experimenting with a slow ball, and now he has got command of it. Think of the deadly efficiency of a slow one coming after a ball that has been turned through a mile a minute."

"Walter's curve is not the widest in the world, but it is a quick one, and the break plenty large enough to ac-



Walter Johnson.

complish the desired purpose. His control, which always has been good, seems to be improving.

"On top of this he has a splendid disposition for a pitcher. Nothing seems to rattle him. Some pitchers get up in the air if they think an umpire has missed a strike in a pinch, but Walter just smiles, knowing that he can lay the next one over if he has to. He is by all odds the greatest pitcher in the game today and to my mind there never lived one who was any better. As near as any human being can hope to achieve in any line of endeavor Johnson has achieved it as a pitcher."

MODERN BASEBALL IS FASTER

Nothing to Be Accomplished by Wordy Controversy on Merits of Old and Young Players.

There may be some good accomplished from a wordy controversy whether or not baseball is faster than it used to be, but just exactly how this is to effect the cost of living is not so perfectly apparent, says the Milwaukee Sentinel.

The old fellows who have had their day and who are continually looking backward, seem to think that they played faster and better in the olden time, but the young men who are now engaged in making baseball history are dead sure the old timers were truck horses in comparison with them.

There is no reason why the old-timers could not hit a ball just exactly as hard; run just as fast and field just as accurately. It may be that owing to the development of pitching they would not have an opportunity to hit and run as often, and inside baseball may be developed more than it was in the olden times, but grant all this and what's the answer?

It pleases us who remember some of the old-timers to think they were just as good as the best, but it may be that we are mistaken. At that, it is pretty hard to see what is going to be accomplished by the disillusionment. If the men of today are much better than they used to be, let it go at that. Nothing can be accomplished by arguing this question any more than can be by indulging in a controversy over politics or religion.

Boston Lands Western Player.

The sale of Pitcher Wynn Noyes of the Spokane club to the Boston club of the National league has been announced. Noyes, who is the star right-sandler of the Spokane club, will not be delivered until the close of the Northwestern league season.

MILLER HUGGINS AS BIG LEAGUE MANAGER



Veteran Second Baseman Huggins of Cardinals.

Miller Huggins is playing his last year with the Cardinals. That is, the tiny second-sacker will depart if Manager Roger Bresnahan can put through a deal this winter that will strengthen the National league troupe.

Huggins is not to be traded because Bresnahan envies the brains of the "Rabbit," or because there is ill-feeling between the boss and his tricky little assistant, but because Miller



Manager Kling of Boston.

Huggins has the managerial bee buzzing in his bonnet.

There are not many more years of major league baseball left in Huggins. Miller knows that, also Roger. But there is a head on the shoulders of the pee-wee that contains a lot of smart baseball, and one that holds as much baseball knowledge, inside and outside, as almost any of the present day managers.

There is a standing order between Bresnahan and Huggins now that if

the second-sacker can arrange a trade for himself that will strengthen the Cardinals it will go through. Last winter it was thought that Huggins would become leader of the Cincinnati Reds, and when Miller was in the running for the job he was given permission from Bresnahan to open negotiations for a trade.

When Hank O'Day was appointed Huggins lost out. But he continues to seek a position as general director and if any bids are received he will be allowed to depart, of course, providing Bresnahan is pleased with what he is offered.

Huggins leaves the Cardinals after this year when Lee Magee will become the second baseman. Magee is outclassed by Huggins in experience, but Lee is speedier than his opponent, is a better hitter and is going to become one of the best base runners in the circuit.

When Bresnahan thinks that he has the coming greatest second baseman in the game in Magee. He is an ardent admirer of the Cincinnati lad for the simple reason that he has copied Roger's style perfectly—being full of vim and dash and wide awake all the time.

For the present, and probably for the rest of 1912 Magee will do left field duty.

Huggins probably would have gone to Boston when the Cardinals were in the east, but for John M. Ward and his co-worker, James Caffrey, being attacked with cold feet. "The bosses of the Braves and Johnny Kling, are not working in harmony, and it has been hinted often that Kling is not a shrewd or smart leader."

The opening for Huggins is Boston, unless Garry Herrmann ousts Hank O'Day in Cincinnati. Both teams have material that could strengthen the Cardinals, and when Roger Bresnahan gets ready to talk with his foes for Huggins, he is not going to put a 10-20-30 tag on pee-wee Miller.

PLAYED IN VARIOUS LEAGUES

Jack Graney Has Every Other Member of Cleveland Team Beaten as to Experience.

"Jack" Graney has every other member of the Cleveland outfit outclassed and tied to the starting mark when it comes to variety of experiences. A year ago Jim McCalre led the field. Though younger in years, "Jack" has already performed in seven different leagues with the following clubs: Erie, Pa.; Fulton, N. Y.; Rochester; Wilkes-barre, Cleveland, Columbus, Portland, Cleveland.

Beat it if you can. And he's still so young and frisky. Even Nap Lajoie, the vet in years of the squad, doesn't compare with "Jack." Larry has confined his efforts to three clubs, Fall River, Athletics and Cleveland. "Tuck" Turner and Joe Birmingham, the other vets, also stand near the foot of the list. "Tuck's" record shows a trial with Pittsburgh, subsequent development at Columbus, and finally a trip to Cleveland. Joe Birmingham displayed his talent with the A. J. and G. team of the N. Y. State league, before Cleveland grabbed him.

Tris Speaker Best Player.

Billy Murray, one of the best judges of a ball player in the country and who is now acting as scout for the Pirates, awards the palm for being the best player to Tris Speaker. Says Billy: "You can praise Ty Cobb, Joe Jackson and the other great outfielders in the big leagues, but none of them is in the class with Tris Speaker of the Red Sox. Speaker is the best player on the diamond today. As a hitter, fielder, thrower and base runner he has Cobb and the others beaten. I've seen all the stars of twenty-five years, and the Beaneater is the king."

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Woman Fights Bulldog to Save Kitten's Life



WASHINGTON.—A thrilling narrative of how Miss Josephine Throckmorton, author, artist and lover of "our dumb friends," braved a savage bulldog in a vain endeavor to save a kitten's life was disclosed the other day by police court records.

Miss Throckmorton, who lives at 121 C street, southeast, was in court as a witness in the case against Miss Lillie Hinkle of 119 C street, southeast, charged with permitting her bulldog to run at large without a muzzle, and in another case against Edward Wells, Miss Hinkle's brother-in-law, also living at 119 C street, northwest, for cruelty to animals, in that he permitted the dog to kill the kitten.

According to evidence, Miss Throckmorton, accompanied by Miss Annie Laurie Tully, who lives with her, walked from the rear of her premises into Rumsey's alley just as Wells opened the gate of the Hinkles' yard and started out with the bulldog.

There was a small kitten in the alley, and Miss Throckmorton and the bulldog saw the kitten at about the same time, it is stated. Miss Throckmorton called to Wells to hold back the dog, and ran toward the helpless little kitten. But Wells, it is said, did not hold the dog, so Miss Throckmorton, who loves but does not fear beasts, she stated, seized the bulldog by the neck.

Miss Throckmorton's strength was not an equal match for the dog, and Wells, it was said, did not help her, but only cried out warningly that the dog would hurt her.

Finally the bulldog got away from Miss Throckmorton, and with one crunch of his powerful jaws, ended all and every, singly, separately and individually, nine lives of the kitten.

Then Miss Throckmorton swore the warrant against Wells and Miss Hinkle. She said she did not think that persons ought to be allowed to permit such dangerous animals as the bulldog to be at large without being muzzled.

Judge Pugh, who tried the case, fined Wells \$20 for cruelty to animals, and fined Miss Hinkle \$5 for allowing the dog to be at large unmuzzled and without a leash.

Banks May Adopt the Finger Print System

FINGER PRINTS as a means of identifying depositors who cannot write their names may be adopted by Washington banks. Among the patrons of the banks, especially of those which do a savings business, the proportion of illiterates is considerable, it was said by bankers the other day, and the fact that some of the Brooklyn banks have adopted the system of finger print signatures for their illiterate customers has suggested to local bankers that the plan might be feasible for meeting conditions here.

C. L. Bowman, cashier of the Union Savings bank, said he believed the finger print system of signatures was practicable, but he did not know if it was needed in Washington.

The finger print system has proved not only popular with the officers of Brooklyn savings institutions, but also has proved an unfailing method of establishing the identity of the illiterates.

The chance of making a mistake on a finger print is said to be very remote. In the first place, the marks on a person's fingers or hand never change during life, and in the second place, there is only one chance in sixty-two billions, it has been estimated, where two persons would develop the same finger prints. Heretofore, the



finger print method has been used almost exclusively by the police. As a part of the Bertillon system it has been used to trace criminals. The police are accustomed to taking impressions of the thumbs and the fingers of both hands, but the savings banks do not go that far.

They take prints of the first three fingers on the right hand, omitting the thumb. These prints are made with indelible ink on a card which is filed away along with the depositor's name and pedigree. When he presents his bank book to draw out his account he is questioned as to his pedigree. Should his questions prove unsatisfactory he is then asked to make a duplicate finger print for the purpose of comparison. This is done by simply sprinkling black powder on the moisture left by the fingers on a bank card. When the powder is blown off the print remains and the comparison can then be made.

Glories of Men's Hose Tempt Their Wives



FOR months the husbands of Washington have wondered why the "sock boxes" which adorn their chiffoniers have always been empty.

Wives when questioned have responded: "Your socks are all dirty, dear. Why don't you think to put them in the wash and then you need not growl about them every day or so."

In his ignorance the husband has ceased to "growl" and made the best of it, usually buying a fresh supply on his way down town. The mistress of the household has kept a straight face and said nothing.

But stolen socks, like murder, will out, and thousands of former "growlers" will know what has become of the "sopping hose" which in times past have vanished from their warurobes or dressing tables.

Saleswomen in the hosiery depart-

ments the other day explained away the mystery. Appropriated and not "dirty" is the word which is the key to the situation in short. Washington women have been and are now wearing their husbands' socks. And one of man's last claims to superiority has been taken from him without his knowledge.

"Of course women are wearin' men's socks," said a saleswoman in a Pennsylvania avenue department store the other day. "Society women are wearing their husbands' socks these hot days and holding them up with their husbands' garters as well."

"If the men had only been content to wear plain hosiery all would have been well. They clamored for color and figure, however. The garden, the rainbow, the peacock were robbed for color schemes for masculine hose. The women became envious. The shades to which they had access were dull and tame. Boldly they reached out and began wearing men's half hose in all their gaudy colors."

"Every day we sell the women dozens of pairs of half hose. Most of them say, 'I want something suitable for my husband,' but that is all a bluff, you know."

Street Car Company Promises Millennium

STREET railway companies are going to put into effect a policy of not fighting claims they believe to be just. If they hurt you or tear your clothes or smash your hat they are going to pay you without any fuss. All you do is to walk up to the claim agent's office, tell him your troubles, point out that the conductor knows how it happened, and you get a check. Yes, sir. Just like that.

Well, at least one of the street railway companies of Washington says that is what they are going to do, and that one is the Washington Railway and Electric company, according to F. J. Whitehead, its claim department manager.

According to Mr. Whitehead, an era is going to come in the history of public service corporations that will make legal battles unnecessary.

The old day, when you had to have a dozen witnesses, just as good as a stack of Bibles, and a first class lawyer to prove that an accident actually did occur to you for which you are entitled to damages, has gone out of



fashion, says Mr. Whitehead. "We do not have time for these old-fashioned fights," Mr. Whitehead said, discussing the subject. "They are out of date. The fights are expensive for the railway company, and the Washington Railway and Electric company, for one, intends in the future to pay such claims when they are sincere and just without the formality and expense of legal prosecution and defense."

"The modern policy is to keep customers of a public service corporation in good humor—to keep them as customers, and not antagonize them. I think most large public service corporations are coming to understand that principle and are putting it into practice."